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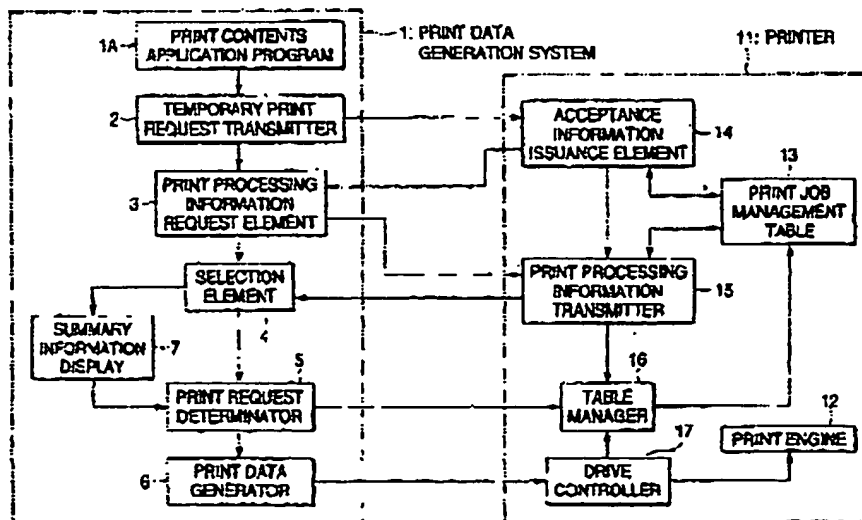
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(54) Print data generation system and corresponding method for use with a printing system

(57) A system and corresponding method for selecting an appropriate printer or printers from among printers connected to a network to improve printing efficiency is provided. Upon receipt of a print command, a print data generation system issues a temporary print request to at least one of the printers, which in response issue acceptance information to the print data genera-

tion system. The print data generation system then issues a print processing information request to obtain print processing information from the printers. The print data generation system then selects a printer or printer based on the print processing information, and generates print data for printing by the selected printer or printers.

FIG. 1



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EUROPEAN SEARCH REPORT

Application Number
EP 98 30 4515

DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT			
Category	Citation of document with indication, where appropriate, of relevant passages	Relevant to claim	CLASSIFICATION OF THE APPLICATION (Int.CL.6)
X	US 5 287 194 A (LOBIONDO MARTIN F) 15 February 1994 (1994-02-15) * figures 1, 4 * * column 2, line 24 - line 56 * * column 3, line 16 - column 5, line 62 * * column 6, line 50 - column 7, line 9 *	1, 2, 8, 13-16	606F3/12
A	EP 0 687 972 A (CANON KK) 20 December 1995 (1995-12-20) * figures 1, 8, 10-12, 14 * * column 8, line 24 - line 51 * * column 18, line 25 - column 19, line 21 * * column 20, line 30 - column 24, line 15 *	1-4, 8-10, 13-16	
			TECHNICAL FIELDS SEARCHED (Int.CI.6)
			606F 606K
The present search report has been drawn up for all claims			
Place of search		Date of completion of the search	Examiner
THE HAGUE		22 February 2001	Weiss, P
CATEGORY OF CITED DOCUMENTS X : particularly relevant if taken alone Y : particularly relevant if combined with another document of the same category A : technological background O : non-written disclosure P : intermediate document T : theory or principle underlying the invention E : earlier patent document, but published on, or after the filing date D : document cited in the application L : document cited for other reasons & : member of the same patent family, corresponding document			

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